

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mark Rosman on 1/9/09.

The application has been amended to the following:

Claim 1:

Line 1: has been removed and replaced with - - A method for measuring neural activity comprising: - -

Line 3: has been removed and replaced with - - to stimulating the subject with a hemodynamically neutral stimulation to induce a hemodynamically neutral state in a subject undergoing magnetic resonance imaging - -

Claim 6: Is canceled

Claim 7:

Line 1: has been removed and replaced with - - The method of claim 1, wherein the hemodynamically neutral - -

Claim 14:

Line 2: "the subject" has been removed and replaced with - - a subject - -

Line 5: "the electromagnetic" has been removed and replaced with --
electromagnetic --

Line 7: "the electromagnetic activity induced by the regional neural activity" has
been removed and replaced with -- electromagnetic activity induced by regional neural
activity --

Claim 26:

Line 1: has been removed and replaced with -- A system for measuring neural
activity comprising: --

Line 3: has been removed and replaced with --magnetic field around a subject, a
stimulus generator to provide a hemodynamically neutral stimulus to the subject; and --

Claim 31: has been canceled

Claim 32:

Line 1: has been removed and replaced with -- The system of claim 26, further
comprising a --

Claim 41: has been canceled

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-17, 19-21, 23, 25-30, 32, and 34-38 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest
prior art to the instant application does not accurately disclose or teach a method or
system which induces a hemodynamically neutral stimulus to a patient undergoing

magnetic resonance imaging in order to detect transient magnetic fields which are not induced by hemodynamic or metabolic changes within a subject. In contrast, the instant application finds its focus in the detection of such transient fields as relates to a hemodynamically neutral state within the patient, rather than the BOLD response, or other analogous measurements as currently used within the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOEL M. LAMPRECHT whose telephone number is (571)272-3250. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian L. Casler can be reached on (571) 272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ruth S. Smith/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3737

JML